

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 17 | Humidity 53%

Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later

Sensex 57,901

Nifty 17,248

Gold 49,420

Silver 61,400

Dollar 76.08

Euro 86.27

GBP 101.145

**First ever student-led pride march on campus
'has received green signal from management'**

PRIDE, NOT PREJUDICE

■ Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pride marches are known for celebration of flamboyance and gender neutrality.

For the first time in the Indian Institute of Science's history, QUASI, a student-led queer support group, will be organising a pride march on the premises, on December 19.

The march is planned to highlight and address campus-specific issues faced by queer students.

The march in IISC will be a small event, primarily for IISC students, and will be hosted a few hours before the Namma Pride march scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on December 19. The student collective intends to stage a small march around the campus and follow it up with an open mic.

"The idea took shape when Namma

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 >>



“There is no proper support group for queer students on campus. Not all on-campus counsellors are queer-friendly...”

— Queer student

CITY / PAGE 2

'Suffered more from Delta than Omicron'



CITY / PAGE 3

If it's a cybercrime, size does matter



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3 THINGS TO DO



01 A merry good cause

Super Mums of India, a community of mothers/mothers-to-be in India, are hosting a Christmas Bazaar and donation drive. The bazaar will feature several stalls laden with merchandise; some of these are Christmas-themed too. Fraser Town Canine Squad and Indie Ninjas, a group of children from Richards Town, who help make lives of streeties better in their area, will be organising a puppy adoption drive at the bazaar. **Where:** The Green Pocket, 37, Old Airport Road; **When:** Dec 19, 11 am - 4 pm **Entry:** Rs 250 (Free for children below two) **Contact** Moya to make donations: 9742909000



02 Music by Mannat

With 2500+ events, 220+ clients and 450+ hits, Hindi band Mannat is all set to perform at Bhola & Blonde with their eclectic energy and magical blend of music. With seven years in the industry, team Mannat -- Amit Sharma, Sandeep Saxena, Piyush Arya and Cletus Pais -- will bring to you a power house that gets everyone grooving on their feet. **Where:** Bhola & Blonde, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar; **When:** Dec 17 **Reservation:** 9513440101/9879276558

03 Monica Dogra, live

Kickstart your Christmas celebrations at Gawky Goose as Monica Dogra takes the stage at Gawky Goose. The nationally accredited singer, actor and DJ has been championing electronic sounds since she began her musical career. She is all set to enthrall audiences to a packed house. Join in with family and friends for a memorable wintry evening.



Where: Gawky Goose Kitchen Bar, Murgesh Pallya **When:** Dec 17; **Reservations:** 9901787273

'Suffered more from Delta than Omicron'

Video of first patient to recover from Omicron in the state goes viral

For those doomsday scrolling and panicking about Omicron, all is not lost, yet, as a viral video of a man who has recovered from Omicron says. The clip of the 34-year-old person who was the first to recover from the new variant in the state has gone viral on social media, and the video explains his experience.

"I was infected with covid before and now, I can share the experience of being affected with the Omicron variant," he says.

"I was infected with covid during the second wave. I got both the doses of the vaccine. In spite of this, I tested positive for the Omicron variant. However, I suffered much more when I was affected with the Delta variant than the Omicron variant," he says in the video.

He was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday. "When I tested positive for covid in April, I was isolated at home and got cured. After a foreign tour, I was infected with the Omicron variant. The symptoms of throat itching, cough and tiredness were more severe the first time. This time there was no necessity for additional treatment," he says.

Sharing details of the treatment plan, he said: "There is no separate treatment as such for the Omicron variant. Vitamin C tablets and antibiotics were given. Since there was no tiredness and symptoms were too mild, I worked from the hospital ward for a week." "I went to



Health workers collect swab samples for testing from passengers who arrive in Bengaluru

South Africa in the last week of November. I tested negative for RT-PCR tests at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru. But, on the third day of my isolation, itching in my throat and cough symptoms developed. I got the RT-PCR test done again at a private lab; the results confirmed Covid-19. Later, the samples were sent for genome sequencing by the civic agency, in which an Omicron

variant was found," he says.

He adds that since the information was available with him, he did not panic. As per protocol, he got admitted to the designated hospital. Later, he tested negative twice for RT-PCR tests. He was discharged after confirming that he was healthy through blood tests and x-ray.

"I isolated myself after arrival from South Africa and my family members did not catch the

5 new Omicron cases in Karnataka

Five new cases of Omicron have been detected in Karnataka on Thursday, according to Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar. "A 19-year-old man returning from UK, a 36-year-old man and a 70-year-old woman from Delhi, a 52-year-old man male from Nigeria, and a 33-year-old man returning from South Africa have tested positive for Omicron," he said.

Those who come from abroad should maintain distance and follow quarantine guidelines — The patient

infection. Those who come from abroad should maintain distance and follow quarantine guidelines. If symptoms crop up, without wasting time and negligence, they should get tested and inform health authorities. If this is done, we can prevent the infection from spreading to neighbors and people around," he says in the video. The 34-year-old man was the third person to get infected with the Omicron variant in the state. The doctor who had tested positive for Omicron is yet to be discharged.

Another patient, a South African national, who tested positive for Omicron, had fled the country by producing a fake RT-PCR report and the police have arrested four persons. — IANS

Benches that define smart sitting

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Located in a corner unknown to the rest of the city, is a unique invention that is re-inventing employee breaks, courtesy the Bangalorean way of redefining the 'smarter' way of doing things.

One of the prominent tech parks in the city, RMZ Ecoworld in Bellandur, has now kept smart benches for its employees to relax in their off time.

Employees working at RMZ Ecoworld Tech Park do not have to worry about losing mobile battery while they step out for a break. The three smart benches installed near the food court allows them to charge phones wirelessly. Two of them are powered by solar energy and one is AC-powered.

"The smart benches can be used by anyone in the tech park and it is widely used for charging phones using the wireless charging



The benches have mobile charging points and have Wi-Fi hotspots and lights

feature. However, due to Covid restrictions, lesser number of people are using it currently," said an official from RMZ Ecoworld.

The builder group imported the smart benches built by Croatian company, Steora and installed them roughly three years ago.

Apart from wireless charging, the benches also provide additional two USB ports and also serve as lights during evening. The solar energy is utilised to power the lighting places at the bottom of the bench as well. It also provides a Wi-Fi hotspot piggybacking on the free limited-period internet connectivity provided in all of the tech parks.

"At Ecoworld, we try to utilise renewable energy as much as possible. These benches require no input, harnessing the solar energy provides an immense supply of energy and leads to no emission. We wanted to harness this great power into something productive," said a senior official.

However, officials noted that there were fluctuations in power on cloudy days. But despite not having customer care centres in India, officials said that they have not faced any issues since its installation.

If it's a cybercrime, size does matter

Online fraud victims say CEN police didn't take complaints as they lost less money, cops say nobody is turned away

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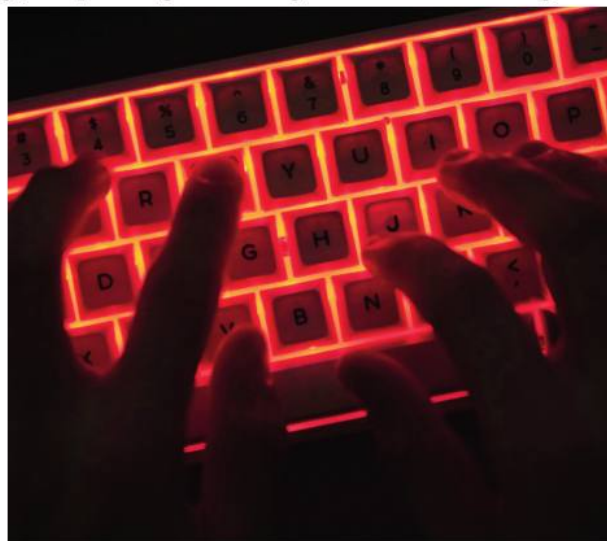
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A woman, who lost Rs. 4,500 to a cyber crook, was sent away from the CEN police station. She was told that they would take up complaints only if the amount lost is above Rs. 10,000. Hers is not the only case. Several others too who lost a smaller amount were sent home with a word of advice.

Sunitha (name changed), a resident of Belandur, told Bangalore Mirror that she had lost the money after getting a call from an unknown person claiming to be from her bank. The man asked her to update her KYC details online. "He took my identity details and asked for my net banking details which I refused to share. He told me I would have to pay for extra service charges if I had to update it without sharing my net banking details," she said. Sunitha agreed and the man sent her a QR code for Rs. 45. But when she scanned it Rs. 4,500 was deducted from her account so she realised that he was a fraud.

"I went to the nearby police station to report it from where I was directed to the CEN police station. The staff told me it was a small amount and I should be thankful that I did not lose much and realised it in time. They refused to register the FIR and pointed at other complainants who had lost over Rs. 20,000. They sent me away saying they are allowed to register the case only if the amount is big."

In another case, a 22-year-old graduate who was looking for a job online was scammed of Rs. 6,500 by a cyber crook last week. When she visited the CEN police station on Monday, she was asked to call the cyber crime helpline and lodge a complaint instead. "I had uploaded my CV online



If they had lost money recently, we ask them to call 112 immediately to freeze the bank account of the accused — An officer

and a person claiming to be HR professional of a reputed company contacted me asking me to pay a registration fee to attend interviews for two companies. After I paid the money, a person took my interview in a professional manner after which I received a call stating I had to pay an extra fee for that company," she said. After paying Rs. 6,500 in all, she received another call from the person who told her that she had been selected and would have to deposit Rs. 20,000 to move ahead. At that point, she realised it was a scam.

She said that she first sent an email to the cyber crime police who replied to her asking her to visit the nearest police station. She said, "I went to the law and order police station when they directed me to visit CEN police station. After two days, I visited the CEN police station who refused to take my complaint

and asked me to dial 112 and register my complaint. After calling a couple of times, the number got connected and they took my complaint as CIR," she said.

She said there is not much awareness on cyber crime incidents and the different modus operandi. "I had travelled for kilometers to visit the police station to submit my complaint which they could have taken and investigated but they sent me away asking me to make a call. But the complaints of others who had lost huge amounts were being taken up," she said.

A senior officer from cyber crime said they do take complaints even if the amount is less and probe the case. "If they had lost money recently, we ask them to call 112 immediately to freeze the bank account of the accused. If they are old cases, we register the FIRs and investigate. Sometimes, the victims see a lot of people standing in the station who would have come to file a complaint and after realising that they lost a small amount they tend to head back thinking it would be of no use and they might not get their money back. We don't turn anyone away without taking complaints," said the officer.

A used car deal that went completely off the track

Man claims he lost ₹2.8 lakh in fraudulent purchase

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A 34-year-old realtor who bought a pre-owned car from a city-based car dealer claims he was cheated of Rs 2.8 lakh as the dealer failed to keep up his word on transferring the ownership credentials. Later the businessman learnt that he had been sold a car that was pawned to the dealer by someone who had borrowed cash from the car dealer.

According to businessman Sagar, he went to the car dealer Bharath Kumar alias Pawan in November last year at his pre-owned car yard at Banashankari and bought a car for Rs 2.5 lakh. He paid Rs 30,000 more for renewal of insurance and ownership title change.

Pawan promised Sagar that the ownership details would be changed according to the availability of the RTO staffers. This took a couple of months by when the second wave lockdown was announced. Pawan then put the blame on the lockdown whenever Sagar

Allegedly, car dealer had sold him a pre-owned car that was just pawned in his yard. Later, the real owner turned up, took the car

called him to check if the ownership was changed.

When Pawan was dilly-dallying, Sagar called him and said he was returning the car and asked him to pay his money back as he could not drive without the original documents. Pawan asked Sagar to bring the car to his yard on May 16, which he did.

"Soon after I reached the yard, Pawan added my bank credentials as his beneficiaries and promised he would send half the amount Rs 1.4 lakh by evening and for the rest of the cash, he offered a cheque of Rs 1.4 lakh," Sagar told Bangalore Mirror.

The money did not come to his bank account. Whenever he called Pawan, he would give excuses and when Sagar

asked him sternly to return his money, he told Sagar that the car was stolen in Sakleshpur, and that was the reason he was having problems with arranging for the money.

Sagar put the car's photograph on Facebook stating it has been stolen so that no one buys the car.

A man from Banashankari called up Sagar and told him he was the owner of the car and why he had put his car's photograph on FB stating it was stolen.

It was then that Sagar understood the entire plot.

The actual car owner had pledged his car with Pawan whose staff had put the car's pic on OLX and sold the same to Sagar. Now that the car has returned to Pawan's yard, he gave it back to the owner after he returned his money and told Sagar that it was stolen.

Sagar then approached the Banashankari police and reported the fraud after which they learnt that the yard comes under Kumaraswamy Layout police jurisdiction and asked him to lodge a complaint at that police station.

Gaping hole: Portion of JC road caves in

Exposing the shoddy work on city's major roads, a huge stretch of JC road caved in on Thursday. This 8-foot deep hole resulted in a huge traffic jam and also raised question over safety of motorists. However, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials who visited the spot said that they were studying the cause. They claimed that this sinkhole could have been caused due to water leakage from a BWSSB pipeline.



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IT'S TOO MUCH

City may soon face waste problems as BBMP is unable to manage waste processing units, landfills

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It appears that there is no end to the trash problem in Bengaluru. On one hand, a majority of the city's roads are filled with garbage, on the other, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is struggling to find a permanent and functional solution for a dumping ground. A few waste processing units are not in use right now while others are under utilised. This has forced BBMP to dump wet waste against the National Green Tribunal's (NGT's) order.

The Chigarenahalli waste processing unit near Doddaballapur has stopped since November 20, 2021. The villagers surrounding the unit have been protesting for the closure of the unit. Minister for Housing and Bengaluru Rural district MTB Nagaraj, local legislators, Deputy Commissioner and the BBMP Chief Commissioner have tried hard to convince the villagers but failed. Hence, BBMP has started dumping 500 tonnes of wet waste in the Mittaganahalli landfill area.

As per NGT's order not only wet waste, but mixed waste too can't be dumped into landfills. But BBMP is dumping the waste which can be converted into compost in Mittaganahalli. This is adding more burden on the landfill areas. Mittaganahalli landfill area is already full. Even though some places are identified for dumping waste, local legislators and the public have been opposing it. BBMP had built seven garbage processing units in the city. But these units are not working as per their capacity. These units are capable of processing wet waste into compost and also mixed waste. But most units are not receiving



A file pic of a pile of garbage dumped on the road after a festival near KR Market

BBMP has released Rs 1,178.85 crore in the last five years for the development of villages surrounding the waste processing units, landfills

ing mixed waste.

BBMP has released Rs 1,178.85 crore in the last five years for the development of villages surrounding the waste processing units, landfills. But villages are suffering due to the stench and pollution. Chikkanagamangala unit has a capacity to process 300 tonnes daily

but is receiving 332 tonnes. However, there is underutilisation in other processing units like the Doddabidarakallu unit which can process 150 tonnes per day but is processing only 71 tonnes of waste. In Kannahalli, 135 tonnes is processed everyday against the capacity of 350 tonnes. So far, BBMP has spent Rs 537.63 crore for the development of villages around these units.

In Yelahanka zone, the dumping stopped many years ago but Rs 200 crore was spent on the development of villages in the surrounding area. Chikkanagamangala unit in Anekal was given Rs 63.25 crore, Kudlu unit in Bommanahalli was given Rs 108.82 crore funds. Even after sanc-

tioning a huge amount for the development, local legislators are not allowed to dump the garbage.

"Lingadheeranahalli, Seegehalli, and Subbarayanapalya in Yeshwanthpur stopped many years ago. The meeting, chaired by the Chief Minister, approved to re-start the units. But a school is opposing this. The legislator is suggesting taking permission before starting," a BBMP officer said.

Since the Mittaganahalli landfill is full, BBMP prepared to dump garbage in Bagalur, but protests erupted. BBMP is now in a dilemma and the city may face a garbage issue in near future. BBMP has prepared to dump the waste scientifically, reducing the damage.

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Loose control Mysuru Road



BBMP marshals are standing in the middle of Mysuru Road near BHEL, stopping vehicles for not wearing masks but only the police has such authority.

Restore this Sivan Chetty Garden



This street was dug up for laying sewage pipes but the contractor left it this way after the works were completed.



PAGE
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10 lakh mobile users hang up their phones

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas my client **Sri Mr. Mohammed Saqlain, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Ilyas, residing at No. 206/19, 5th Main, 5th Cross, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011**, is intending to purchase the under mentioned property hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from **Mr. Shafiulla, S/o. Late Rahamathulla, residing at: No. 53/19, 9th Main Road, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560 029**, who claims to be the legal heirs and absolute owner of the 'Schedule Property'. Any other person / s who have any kind of right, claims, interest, over the 'Schedule Property'. Any other person/s who have any kind of right, claims, interest, over the 'Schedule Property' are herewith called upon to file their claims before the undersigned within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of their notice with the relevant and concerned documents. If no such claim is filed within the given time my client shall proceed and purchase the 'Schedule Property' as 'no claims subsisting'.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Only One Shop in Ground Floor of Property Bearing No. 6/1, Venkatachalaiah Street, Seegegalli, Bangalore - 560 053, PID No. 30-8-6/1, BBMP Ward No. 30, measuring East to West 30'-0" feet and North to South 20'-0" feet totally measuring 600 Sq.ft. of the undivided share in the land in Schedule 'B' Property with red oxide flooring and bounded on the:

East by: Shop property No. 6/1 (1), belonging to Mohamed Nawaz, West by: Shop Property No. 6/1 (3) belonging to N. Rajendran, North by: Property No.6, belonging to Mohamed Anwar so also 1st Floor belonging to Mohammed Anwar. South by: Lane

B.C. Keerthi Kishore, Advocate

Office: No.13, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Jayanagar 1st Block East, BDA Layout, Bangalore - 560 011. Ph.No.: 99864 66139, 080-2244 9640

BSCL project causes waste water to enter church on Primrose Rd

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

An ongoing Smart City project in Bengaluru has led to severe problems in Mar Thoma Syrian Church on Primrose Road. Construction work from the project has led to modification of the drainage system that used to exist on the road. The modification of the drain has led to severe dumping of waste water that flows into the premises of the church.

Father Charley Jones, Vicar of the church, told BM that members of the church are struggling to enter the church due to intense flooding during rainfall. He said, "The drain pipe that has been constructed leads the waste water to the church's gates. This means that all the waste water from multiple roads drains inside the church instead of going



The church distributes food packets to the needy at its entrance but waste water has been making it unsanitary

through the right channels." Father Charley also mentioned that the situation continues to remain the same despite

repeated appeals to government officials in charge of the project.

People are facing issues while attending service because of the flooding. Father Charley said, "The older members of the church usually enter through the main entrance. But due to the water clogging they have to walk an extra distance to enter from a different gate that is not easily accessible."

The church is engaged in a food service campaign that provides free lunch packets every day. Even this donation drive has been affected by the flooding situation as access is deterred by the presence of dirty water everywhere. People who come to the church to avail the free food service have to wade through the dingy waters to get their food packet. Alex, a member of the church, hopes that the situation will be remedied soon before the church begins to engage in the Christmas festivities.

Metro won't reach airport soon

Current pace of work indicates that airport line may be completed only in June 26

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The wait for travelling to the airport in a Metro train will be longer than expected. According to the latest report, riding a Metro train to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is possible only after June 2026. However, even this deadline is possible only if the works are fast tracked.

Recently, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai directed the BMRC officials to finish the Metro phase two works by 2024. However, going by the current pace of work, executing the phase two work looks challenging. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Kishore on Thursday said the phase two of Metro works in the city is only 60 per cent complete. At the current pace of work, the project may be completed only by March 2025. Kishore said that the Bengaluru Metro project phase 2A and 2B connecting to the airport were still in "preliminary stages" and the airport line may be completed only in June 2026.

The airport phase-2B line - (Airport Line-K.R. Puram to Kempegowda International Airport) will see operations for a distance of 38 km. Out of 2,21,713.18 sqm required for viaduct and stations for this line, 2,10,730.80 sqm is acquired and an extent of 2,09,336.61 sqm is handed over to the engineering section. Payment of compensation for the remaining area is under progress. Out of 23 acres of land required for depot at Shettigere, 18 acres has been transferred by the State Government and is handed over to BMRC. The remaining five acres of land is under litigation and is pending with the special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District for passing of orders.

Reacting to this, Naveen Shekar, a techie said, "Globally, we see many airports being connected to Metro.



For the RV Road-Bommasandra Metro route, 3,09,458.00 sqm of land has been acquired and handed over to the engineering section; Work on KR Puram-KIA Metro line (inset) is only 60% complete

However, there seems to be a delay in Bengaluru. Initially, the government was in two minds whether to go for a Metro or for a high-speed rail network. Then, when Metro was finalised, there was again confusion over the alignment as to whether it has to go via RK Hegde Nagar or Yelahanka. Now, when everything is finalised, there is a delay in land acquisition. Hope no time is lost in executing the work."

Meanwhile, Suman R, a rail activist said, "It is good that the State Government is building a Metro to airport. Now, as there is still a long time, it should work ways with Rail-

ways to promote the existing trains to the airport. Currently, a few trains are being operated but have poor patronage due to various reasons. The government and Railways should discuss with railway users as well as experts on popularising the airport trains."

Elevated stretch work just 30 per cent complete

According to the latest update (till November-end) from BMRC, the reach 1A (Baiyappanahalli to Visvesvaraya Industrial Area) is 94 per cent complete, Reach 1B (Visvesvaraya In-

dustrial Area to Whitefield) is 99 per cent complete; Reach 2B (Pattangere to Challaghatta depot)-99 per cent, Reach 3C (Nagasandra to BIEC) 75 per cent; Reach 4B (Yelachenahalli cross to Silk Institute)-99 per cent; Reach 5P1 (Bommasandra to Hosur Road)-92 per cent; Reach 5P2 (Hosur Road to Bommanahalli)-99 per cent; Reach 5P2 (Hosur Road to Bommanahalli)-99 per cent; Reach 5P3 (Bommanahalli to RV Road) is at 72 per cent. However, Reach 6 (elevated corridor between Kalena Agrahara to Swagath Cross Road) is just 30 per cent complete. BMRC is yet to hand over the acquired property to the en-

The Karnataka government should work with the Railway department to promote the existing trains to the airport

- Suman R, rail activist



gineering section for beginning road works at many stretches. The BMRC is yet to hand over 49 properties across the reaches where the challenging task is that out of 49, 38 are private properties.

BMRC officials said that in Reach-3C-extension - (Nagasandra to Bangalore International Exhibition Centre), lands were acquired and handed over to the engineering section. Acquisition of additional area of 1885.11 sqm for providing road links to Chikkabidarakallu Metro Station from Anchepalya and other villages via Jindal-Prestige Layout had been set by the High Court. In Reach-5 - (New Line-R.V. Road to Bommasandra) out of 3,10,606 sqm required, 3,09,458.00 sqm has been acquired and handed over to the engineering section. However, final notification for acquisition of an additional area of 1,147.97 sqm has been approved by the government and the Land Committee report was awaited. Metro officials claim that so far, Rs 84.91 crore has been paid as rehabilitation benefits for 777 owners and 2,354 tenants.

Senior executive summoned in drug case

A senior woman executive of a top company was questioned by Govindapura police in connection to a drug case. She is suspected to have links with a drug peddler from Africa, who was arrested recently. Thomas Anagha Kalu (47) was arrested by the police in August. Police said that the accused was supplying synthetic drugs to celebrities. According to the police, WhatsApp messages in Kalu's phone had revealed his link with the woman. The messages exchanged between the two were allegedly related to the exchange of narcotic substances. The police had summoned her about two months ago but she did not turn up. Earlier, the police had arrested model Sonia Agarwal for her alleged contact with Kalu. She was later arrested. Disc Jockey Vachan Chinnappa and a realtor, Bharath, were also arrested.

— BMB



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personal

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I, Hemlata P/ P Hemlata / Hemlata Ponada / Hemlata Ponnada D/o Ponnada Arjun Rao R/o H.No-201, RN residency 2nd Cross, SMR Layout, Kareguddadahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bluru-560090 have changed my name to Hemlata Ponnada for all purposes.

I B.R.Sharat S/o Ranganatha Prakash R/at No.28, Doddabidarakallu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore 560073 have changed name as B R Sharath in front of Notary G Rajendra, Bangalore

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10 lakh mobile users hang up their phones

Country loses over 20% mobile subscribers, K'taka too decides to cut some calls

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In a big shocker, Karnataka has lost a million mobile phone subscribers (between August 21 and September 21) this year. Overall, 2,07,03,040 mobile subscribers decided to give up the service across the country across service providers. The country lost 20.43 per cent of its mobile subscriber base in September.

According to the latest TRAI report, the number of telephone subscribers in Karnataka circle decreased from 6,78,59,218 to 6,68,31,287. On the national front, the subscriber numbers decreased from 12,09.58 million at the end of August-21 to 1,189.15 million at the end of September-21, thereby showing a monthly decline rate of 1.69 per cent. Urban telephone subscriptions decreased from 671.31 million at the end of August-21 to 659.09 million at the end of September-21 and the rural subscription decreased from 538.28 million to 530.06 million during the same period. The monthly decline rates of urban and rural telephone subscriptions were 1.82 per cent and 1.53 per cent respectively.

Dip in teledensity

Karnataka's teledensity is now 103.23 per cent, with a slight dip from 104.6 per cent in August. The overall tele-density in India decreased from 88.45 per cent at the end of August-21 to 86.89 per cent. The urban tele-density decreased from 141.52 per cent to



Country lost 20.43 per cent of its mobile subscribers in September

According to the latest TRAI report, the number of phone subscribers in Karnataka circle decreased from 6,78,59,218 to 6,68,31,287. State's teledensity is now 103.23 per cent

138.72 per cent while rural teledensity decreased from 60.27 per cent to 59.33 per cent. The share of urban and rural subscribers in the total number of telephone subscribers was 55.43 per cent and 44.57 per cent respectively.

Number portability

In Southern and Eastern India, the highest number of MNP requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 50.55 million)

followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 48.69 million). The MNP was implemented first in Haryana service area (November 25, 2010) and in the rest of the country (January 20, 2011). Now, the wireless telephone subscribers can retain their mobile numbers when they relocate from one service area to another. During September-21, a total of 10.10 million requests were received for MNP in the country.

Broadband in demand

There are 522 operators in the country (up from 499) who have been offering broadband services (≥ 512 Kbps download) in the country. But, the total broadband subscribers decreased from 813.47 million at the end of August-21 to 794.88 million at the end of September-21 with a monthly decline rate of 2.29 per cent.

Increase in wireline subscriptions

In a surprise development, wireline subscribers increased from 22.86 million to 23.13 million. The net increase in the wireline subscriber base was 0.27 million with a monthly growth rate of 1.19 per cent. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers were 91.66 per cent and 8.34 per cent respectively. The overall wireline tele-density in India, increased from 1.67 to 1.69 per cent. The urban and rural wireline tele-density was 4.46 per cent and 0.22 per cent. BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 45.98 per cent of the wireline market share.

QUASI to hold march on December 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pride in Bengaluru was cancelled briefly owing to the Omicron scare. So, we decided to hold one of our own. Even though later the organisers decided to go ahead with the Namma Pride march, we just decided to go ahead with ours anyway. IISC is one of the premier institutes for science education and research in the country and this will set a precedent for other colleges for being queer inclusive," said Rohit, a member of QUASI.

The pride march is a completely student-led initiative that has received the green signal from the college management.

"We are very happy about the first ever pride march in IISC. QUASI has received clearance from the administration to host the event. With the march, we hope to create visibility for queer issues and provide an opportunity for allies to take part in the experience. It will be an IISC-exclusive event so as to limit the number of people and adhere to covid-19 restrictions," said another member from QUASI.

Though IISC is not a queer-phobic place, students feel that there is a need for larger awareness about the queer community.

"There is very limited understanding about trans and non-binary people among the faculty. We have had instances of these students being forced to live in accommodations and use facilities based on their sex assigned to them at birth," said a queer student from IISC.

Due to their non-conformist lifestyle, queer students face backlash from society and tend to suffer from mental health problems.

"There is no proper support group for queer students on the campus. Not all on-campus counsellors are queer-friendly either," another queer student from IISC added.

The collective also highlighted that despite its inception 10 years ago, QUASI is not formally recognised as an official club — henceforth is barred from broadcasting messages to students, which is the norm for other clubs on the campus.

"As of now the administration has not placed any restriction on the celebration especially cross-dressing. However, we are expecting some opposition from the onlookers," added Rohit.

NATION

BJP leader Sreedharan quits politics

Metroman' and Bharatiya Janata Party leader E Sreedharan on Thursday announced his departure from politics saying that he is no more interested in politics.

Sreedharan said, "I am quitting politics. I am no longer interested in it (in politics)."

Sreedharan had joined the BJP ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections earlier this year. However, he lost the Palakkad Assembly constituency against a Congress candidate. The BJP had fielded the country's architect of the metro rail system, Sreedharan against the MLA Shafi Parambil of Congress and CP Pramod of CPI-M.

'Sheena is alive, is in Kashmir'

Indrani Mukerjea, arrested for allegedly murdering her daughter Sheena, has claimed that she was alive, her lawyer said on Thursday.

In a letter to the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) last month, she also asked the agency to look for Sheena in Kashmir. A woman government official told her she had seen Sheena Bora while on vacation in Srinagar, Indrani, lodged in Byculia Women's Prison here since 2015, claimed in the letter. A CBI official refused to comment. Indrani would be moving an application before the special CBI court.

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BEST OF

DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am 21 years old. My problem is I don't have confidence in doing anything. And the other problem is that I am attracted to all types of girls. I am constantly thinking of sex, and for the past six months, I have been trying to get my old life back but am not being able to. What do I do?

Begin by diverting your attention. Also, start with Kegel exercise (there's enough information on the internet on it). Plan your day's mental and physical activities regularly. Keep yourself occupied by doing something constructive. Meet friends every week, whether they are men or women. There's no harm in thinking of someone you are attracted to, but it should not hinder your daily affairs.

2 I am a 24-year-old man. A few years ago, when I was masturbating I used body spray, toothpaste and vaseline on my penis under the foreskin due to which a small green mark appeared under it. It doesn't itch or smell since I wash my penis regularly under the foreskin with soap and water. Could you please tell me if this green mark will affect my sperm count or cause any problem in the future. Is there anything that can get rid of the mark?

Your sperm count will not be affected but you need to take adequate measures to heal it. Try surfaz SM cream daily for two weeks. If it doesn't improve, see a skin specialist.

3 My wife has entered menopause. Recently, I had intercourse with a sex worker. I used a condom, which did not tear during the act, nor did my semen leak. Do I need to use a condom while having sex with my wife, and do I need to undergo any tests?

If the condom was intact and the sex worker was healthy, you do not need to undergo any test. However, you are indulging in unsafe sex. It's best to stick to home.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

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Coconut oil myths busted

This hair oil actually has multiple beauty benefits and is a one stop-solution for the hair woes we struggle with today



Sukriti Shahi
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There's nothing better than a relaxing head massage done with warm oil to end a long day. It's a lifesaver! The kind of stress we go through also impacts the health of our hair and skin. The solution, most definitely, lies in using effective but modern product remedies that are high-performing, natural, and safe. Therefore, coconut-based hair oil is one modern remedy that has got hair oiling back into our daily hair care routine.

Coconut-based hair oil has mul-

multiple beauty benefits and is a one stop-solution for the hair woes we struggle with today. It's a proven solution for hair fall, thinning of hair, maintaining scalp health, restoring the shine of lifeless and dull hair, and even working as a protective coating on hair strands. However, there are a few myths attached to it which often discourage people from continuing with the practice. The truth is environmental factors and everyday stress on hair can be reversed to an extent with hair oiling.

Is it necessary to keep oil in the hair overnight

While oiling is healthy for the

hair and scalp, it is not necessary to keep it overnight, especially if you are using coconut-based hair oil. The fact is that it's enough to keep the coconut-based hair oil on for 30 minutes to one hour before washing it as coconut-based hair oil penetrates through the hair faster and deeper. Therefore, 30 to 60 minutes are enough to reap hair oiling benefits.

Do you have to apply a large quantity of oil for it to penetrate your scalp

Quantity of oil doesn't decide its efficacy. Depending on the length of the hair, you should apply

enough quantity that covers it from root to end and nourishes the scalp too. The quantity can also vary based on the weather or the inherent dryness of the scalp, but a little goes a long way.

Is hair oiling is only beneficial for dry skin scalp

Though oiling can help nourish and hydrate dry scalp and prevent flakiness, it's a myth that people with oily scalp shouldn't oil their hair. Oiling hair and massaging the head can help stimulate blood circulation boosting hair growth. Also, coconut-based hair oil is distinctive than sebum oils and has its own set of benefits like antifungal, antibacterial and anti-itch properties and resists lipid and protein loss from scalp by excess shampooing. Therefore, every scalp type can benefit from oiling.

Does oiling strip off colour from dyed hair

In fact, oiling helps form a protective layer around the coloured hair strands and prevents it from fading by avoiding shampoo and water to leach out the colour from the hair internal spaces. Regular application of coconut-based hair oil not only helps extend the life of colour on your hair but also, less colouring means less hair damage. Another drawback of a coloured mane is that they are dry and frizzy; regular oiling also helps in sealing in the moisture, preventing it from getting drier and making them softer.

Does hair oiling clog pores

Using some vegetable oils such as olive oil and almond oil for the hair can lead to clogged pores given that they are comedogenic and form acne-like hair follicles that are called 'whiteheads' when they close. Use a coconut-based hair oil that is scientifically proven to be a non-comedogenic moisturiser. In fact, its anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial properties make it beneficial for overall scalp health.



MIRRORLIGHTS

Want plumper, firmer skin? Try peptides

Peptides or polypeptides, which have already made their way to creams, serums, cleansers and more, promise to renew and rejuvenate your skin and give you the youthful appearance you've always wished for.

Peptides are naturally occurring proteins in our body and just like all the other good (and essential) nutrients, we usually don't have enough of it in our body.

"Peptides are made of short chains of amino acids and, in a sense, they are the building blocks of protein such as collagen, keratin," explains Dr Mikki Singh, head dermatologist from Bodycraft Skin Clinic.

All essential proteins that endow you with good skin and hair, like elastin, keratin and most importantly collagen are present in the body due to peptides.

"Their primary role is to signal your cells to produce more collagen," adds Dr Singh.

"Peptides make your skin resilient, give it structure and texture, thereby making it look firm and plump," she says.

Peptides promote plumper, firmer and more youthful-looking skin, thanks to the accelerated collagen production. More collagen equals lesser wrinkles and fine lines, which makes it a smart addition to an anti-ageing skincare

routine.

Peptides are actively present in many skincare products like serums, creams, face cleansers and lotions. However, it is best to use leave-on products, when applying topically. You can use peptides twice a day, for best results.

"You could use products infused with peptides, instead of using it as an isolated ingredient. A product that combines it with vitamin C or hyaluronic acid is a good bet," suggests Dr Singh.

She adds, "It's safe for all skin types. I'd avoid using it with AHAs as that might bring down the efficacy of the ingredient."

—Ria Bhatia



Shraddha Kapoor and Rohan Shrestha

Shraddha Kapoor and Rohan Shrestha's names often do rounds in the media. The rumoured couple is childhood friends and still shares a close bond. While they are believed to be dating, they have often maintained that they are just good friends. According to Shakti Kapoor, Rohan has been a family friend and although he too is fond of the young lad, he has never asked Shraddha's hand in marriage.



RUMOUR HAS IT

So are they going out? We don't know yet, we are awaiting confirmation

Disha Patani and Tiger Shroff

Disha Patani and Tiger Shroff are one of the hottest and most-loved celebrity couples amongst the younger lot. Apart from fitness, the couple bond over their shared love for food. Disha also shares a close bond with Tiger's family, including his sister Krishna Shroff. The two have been dating for a long time now but are yet to make their relationship official.



Taapsee Pannu and Mathias Boe

Taapsee is reported to be dating badminton player Mathias Boe, who hails from Denmark but neither of the two has ever come out in the open and admitted it. In an earlier interview with ETimes, Taapsee had revealed why she hasn't made a public statement about her relationship with Mathias Boe. She said, "I didn't want to date someone from the industry for this very reason. I want to keep my personal and professional lives separate. I always share a picture with those who matter to me on their birthdays and did the same for Mathias, who is a part of my inner circle."



Bollywood stars have always maintained secrecy when it comes to their love life. Although their social media PDAs, dinner dates and outings speak volumes about their love affair, they hide behind their 'just friends' tag. The following couples have surely kept us on the tenterhooks:

Mouni Roy and Suraj Nambiar

Reports of Mouni Roy's wedding with Dubai-based businessman Suraj Nambiar have been doing the rounds for quite some time now. The actress, however, has been tight-lipped about her relationship status. According to a report in a news portal, Mouni's mother met Suraj's parents recently and a wedding in January 2022 is said to be on the cards. However, there has been no official confirmation on the same.



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani

Apart from impressing their fans with their sizzling on-screen chemistry, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani also turn heads in their real-life every time they step out together. The couple has been dating for a long time now. Reports are rife that they have even met each other's parents and have grown quite serious about their relationship over the past few years. The duo is also often snapped by the paparazzi visiting each other's residences in the city.



Wedding gifts: A fancy car, diamonds; pricey painting

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal took the internet by storm last week after they announced their wedding. The duo tied the knot on December 9 at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. It was an intimate affair with only close friends and family members in attendance. Soon after their wedding, the lovebirds jetted off to their honeymoon and later returned to Mumbai for the 'grah-pravesh' ceremony.

According to a news portal, the newlyweds have been showered with some luxurious gifts from their industry friends. The report suggests that VickKat have received gifts from Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Anushka Sharma and Hrithik Roshan among



others. It is being reported that Salman has gifted a Range Rover car to the newlyweds worth Rs. 3 crore. While on the other hand, Katrina's ex-boyfriend Ranbir has reportedly sent her a diamond necklace worth Rs. 2.7 crore. Shah Rukh Khan has gifted an expensive painting worth Rs. 1.5 lakh. Anushka has reportedly gifted diamond earrings worth Rs. 6 lakh, while Hrithik has given a new BMW G310 R bike to Vicky worth Rs. 3 lakh and Alia has sent a perfume basket to the couple.

It is also being said that Vicky and Katrina are set to host their reception on December 20 for their friends in the industry since everyone couldn't attend their wedding in Rajasthan. —ETimes

Alia's 'Gangubai' going to Berlinale 2022

Actor Alia Bhatt on Thursday celebrated the official selection of her much-awaited film "Gangubai Kathiawadi" at the 72nd edition of the Berlin International Film Festival next year, saying she is "grateful" to part of the Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial. The crime drama feature, adapted from one of the chapters of noted author Hussain Zaidi's book, "Mafia Queens of Mumbai", will have its world premiere in the Berlinale Special Gala section.

"So grateful to be part of a wonderful team that now celebrates its official selection to the #BerlinFilmFestival2022. See you on 18th February, 2022," Bhatt wrote on Twitter. The magnum opus features Bhatt in the title role of Gangubai, one of the most powerful, loved and



respected madams from Kamathipura during the 1960s. After the 2019 musical drama "Gully Boy", the upcoming film marks Bhatt's second outing at the film fest. Gangubai Kathiawadi also stars Seema Pahwa and has cameos by Ajay Devgn, Huma Qureshi. —ETimes

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



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WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you patience. Externally, you may face some work-related stress but on the inside you may be calm and cool, which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy every moment on the work and domestic front. Parents' health will be well now. You may hear some good news from your siblings.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23
Today you may be satisfied with your responsibilities at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may visit some religious place to maintain your inner peace and positivity. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22
Today you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you, it may make you disappointed. Today you may have self exploration and self analysis, which may allow filtering yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and be able to prepare to accept challenges.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20
Today, you may feel unhappy. Some old health issues may reappear, which may make you impatient. You may spend your hard earned money to buy worthless stuff. You are advised to control your temper. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise they may break up.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull. Keep your mind cool. It's a golden rule for you to think twice before acting. You may travel to recover your money. You are also advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in depth study to get success. You may also be attracted by occult.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20
Today, you may feel some negativity around you, which may make you upset. You may find your responsibilities to be a burden. You may be in a hurry to complete the task given to you. You may make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may slow down, which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects may be delayed and affect your professional life. You are advised to take advice from your elders or consultants, before making any important decision.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21
Today, you are likely to enjoy your domestic and professional life. You may become polite to the people around you, which may help in completing your work smoothly. You may find some new sources of earnings, which may boost your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office. Natives with jobs may get promotions.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22
Today you may feel good. Family harmony may make you happy. You may meet some influential person to get some benefits on the work front. You may perform well in your job. You may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes regarding inherited property may settle down.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19
Today is a positive day for you. You may get success for your hard work on the professional front. You may have a good focus and may complete your work before time, which can improve your confidence. You may also expect some work-related short-term travelling, which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23
Today, you may be busy on the work front. With the help of elders' blessings, you are likely to implement some new innovations in the work. You may be ethical and follow rules while dealing with the people around you, which may give you inner peace and inner strength.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22
Today, you may find yourself in a self analysing state, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear. You may get success to achieve your goal. Your creativity might improve and you will take interest in artefacts, movies, glamour and real life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may expect to get some inherited assets. You may perform with patience on the work front, which may increase your efficiency. You may be polite to the people around you. You may put less effort in day-to-day work. You may use your communication skills to get new business in terms of progress on the work front.

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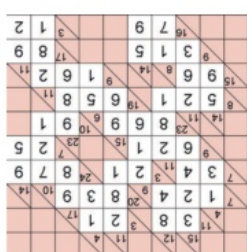
Shravya KG, 8 Years, The New Cambridge English School



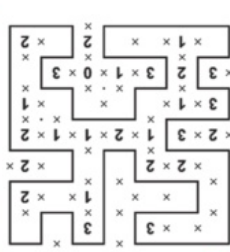
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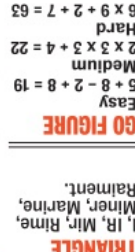
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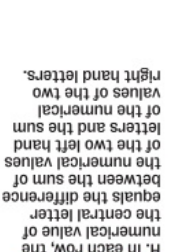
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